

**Section by Section Analysis of H.R.50, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric
Administration Act
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Section 1. Short Title.

The short title of this Act is the “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Act.”

Section 2. Definitions.

Defines terms used in the Act.

Section 3. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Establishes the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) within the Department of Commerce and describes the mission and functions of NOAA.

Section 4. Administration Leadership.

Describes the leadership structure of NOAA, including a new position of a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Science, Technology, Education and Outreach, who shall be responsible for coordinating and managing all research activities across the agency, and must be a career position. Also, this section designates the Deputy Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere as the Chief Operating Officer of the Administration, responsible for the day-to-day aspects of the Administration’s operations and management.

Section 5. National Weather Service.

Directs the Secretary of Commerce to maintain a National Weather Service within NOAA.

Section 6. Operations and Services.

Directs the Secretary to maintain programs within NOAA to support operational and service functions. These functions would include all the activities of NOAA’s National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) and the mapping and charting activities of the National Ocean Service.

Section 7. Research and Education.

Directs the Secretary to maintain programs within NOAA to conduct and support research and education functions.

Section 8. Science Advisory Board.

Establishes a Science Advisory Board for NOAA, which would provide scientific advice to the Administrator and to Congress on issues affecting NOAA.

Section 9. Reports.

Requires two reports from the Secretary. Each report is to be delivered to Congress within 18 months of the date of enactment of the Act. One report should assess the adequacy of the environmental data and information systems of NOAA and provide a strategic plan to address any deficiencies in those systems. The other report must provide a strategic plan for research at NOAA. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) shall review each report prior to delivery to Congress.

Section 10. Effect of Reorganization Plan.

Repeals the Executive Order that established NOAA in 1970.

Section 11. Savings Provision.

Provides that all rules and regulations, and other technical legal topics that were previously assigned to the Administration, remain in effect under this Act.

Section 12. Transition.

Makes the effective date of the Act two years after the date of enactment and requires NOAA to reorganize around the themes outlined in sections five through seven.

Section 13. Facility Evaluation Process.

Provides that NOAA cannot expend funds to close or transfer a facility without a 60-day public comment period, 90 days notification to Congress, review by the Science Advisory Board (if appropriate), preparation of anticipated costs and savings, and preparation of a statement of the impacts of the facility change on NOAA and its part